

# THE CASE

OF

*Multitudes of Tradesmen and Manufacturers,*

In Respect to

~~Public Mournings.~~

**I**T is the Felicity of the Subjects of *Great Britain*, that they may humbly lay their Conditions before any Part of the Government.

Which Consideration doth incourage them humbly to Represent the hard Fate of many Thousands, who at this present Time endure the utmost Penury and Hardship by **Cedious Mournings** (which are now a-days become Customary); and the rather, because they intirely depend upon those Manufactures which these *Mournings* destroy: Whereby their Loss and Grievance is become more Insupportable than by all the Taxes of the present War.

This Burthen is very extensive; but the immediate Damage falls chiefly upon the Fine coloured Silk, Silver and Gold Lace, Ribbons and Woollen Manufactures, and many Thousands of their Dependants.

For the Tradesmen, and Employers of these People, usually provide Quantities of Fashionable Goods for the Two Seasons of the Year, viz. *Summer* and *Winter*; and these Provisions are according to their Stocks and Credit. Now when a **Public Mourning** happens in the *Spring*, all the *Summer* Trade is lost; which hath frequently proved the Ruin of many of them. And though some others, by the C

rendred Unlucky, the third long, and the interest of the Stock lying dead for a Year. And it is the same when a **public mourning** happens in the *Autumn*. Nevertheless in the present Case, One Market Time, and a Second, and a Third is passed, and no visible Prospect or Hopes of any Market at all. Upon which Account most Tradesmen are under a Necessity of leaving off their Trades, and turning their Miserable Work-people out of Employ: Which must end in an Insupportable Calamity upon the People and Parishes, unless some speedy Remedy can be applyed.

Besides long **Public Mournings** are a Loss to the Publick, by Obstructing the Consumption of the Imports of the *Turkey* and *Italian Merchants*, and by Consequence lessening their Exports.

And in many Counties of *England* the Poor's whole Dependance is by their being Employed on these Fine Manufactures, who are not half Employed; and those that are, at little better than Half Pay, notwithstanding Bread is at an Excessive Price.

Nothing is more Demonstrable than that this Numerous People, who are very much increased by, and their Trades the chief Support of Foreigners, are so Discouraged and Impoverished by the Precariousness of their Stock and Trade, That it will be impossible for them to carry on the same, and consequently will oblige both Natives and Foreigners to seek for Employments in Foreign Parts, and thereby Render the Markets for the Manufactures in *England* less Considerable, which of late Years are become the most Considerable in *Europe*, without some Wholsome Law be made for Shortning the Time for **Public Mournings**, or other Relief, which is humbly conceived cannot be Injurious to any.

The Persons wanting this Relief are,

All Dealers in *Silk*, *Scarlet* and *Coloured Dyers*, *Gold* and *Silver*, *Silk* and *Woollen Weavers*, *Throwsters*, *Winders of Silk*, which Impleys a great number of *Seamens Widows*, *Wives* and *Children*, *Lace-makers*, *Ribbon-Weavers*, *Wire-Drawers*, *Flat-ters of Wire*, *Bone-Lace-makers*, *Clothiers*, *Wooll-combers*, *Spinners* and *Carders*, with many others, &c.